

Eastern North Carolina, USMC anti-encroachment partnership thrives through years of cooperation

CPL. TYLER J. BOLKEN
MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @BOLKSBLOTTRUSMC

Editor’s note: This article is the third in a series that explains the many facets of MCAS Cherry Point and its role in supporting the warfighter while existing as a responsible member of the Eastern North Carolina community.

They say, “If you build it, they will come.” And though that may or may not be true of a baseball diamond in the middle of an Iowa cornfield, it is definitely true of a military base, especially when it is built near now-coveted locations like a coastline.

Cherry Point has been no exception – since the air station’s inception in the early 1940s in the middle of woods, marsh and farmland, the area around it has slowly become home to thriving communities.

When Cherry Point was first constructed adjacent to the budding community of Havelock, it probably never occurred to the farmers, fishermen, hunters or other local residents, nor to the Marines who began operating a military air station, that someday they might be jostling for space. And the idea that their proximity to the day-to-day operations of a heavily armed military airport could be hazardous was probably as foreign to them as the invaders the Marines were training to fight in the faraway Pacific.

But over time, as military air stations and civilian airports around the country experienced more and more crowding with the communities that grew up around them, one thing became abundantly clear – it is inherently dangerous for people to build homes and businesses under the flight paths of arriving and departing aircraft.

The challenge for Cherry Point then became: how do you protect those people – not only from our flight operations, but from themselves? Every savvy businessman knows that money flows out the front gate like a swollen river, so building your business and hanging your shingle as close as you can to the source of that river seems like a great idea. The associated aircraft noise and the risk of an aircraft accident seem like far lower priorities – but not to the military and city officials who see the need to protect their citizens.

“The key is to be good stewards every day with development that occurs,” says Tyler Harris, the Cherry Point community plans and liaison officer, who consults and coordinates with local elected officials, city and county planners and managers daily regarding community issues including new or pending construction that could negatively impact the air station by putting local citizens at unnecessary risk. “Through being vigilant and consistent, public health and safety are our top priorities.”

A booming business of warfighting Marine aviation operates inside the air station’s fence line, but a thriving civilian community complete with schools, restaurants and other businesses is

See **ENCROACHMENT** page A5

Air station opens new four-story training tower

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @GESANTYUSMC

Parking a fire truck near a backhoe, firefighters hop out to sneak a peek at what will soon be their new training facility Aug. 24. One jokes about shedding a single tear as they pass the old burnt-out, two-story facility where they devoted countless training hours.

Cherry Point Fire and Emergency Services, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting and Provost Marshal’s Office personnel all wait in anticipation for the completion of the new training tower off of Access Road aboard the air station.

The idea for the training tower started in late 2009 because the previous two-story facility was not completely meeting the training needs of the fire crews, said Johnson. Before any plans were drawn, firefighters from the air station sat down together to create a list of features they wanted in the new facility.

Johnson said the tower is primarily in



Cherry Point Fire and Emergency Services firefighters survey the progress of their new training tower here Aug. 24. The new training tower has two additional stories and up-to-date equipment inside to help the firefighters train.

See **FIRE** page A5

Showcasing Teamwork



LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

A Marine with Marine Air Control Group 28 flips a tire during a squadron competition here Aug. 30. The tire weighed more than 150 pounds. See Page B1 for story and photos.

Feds Feed Families campaign concludes

LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON
MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @ACLEOPATRAUSMC

For the past two years, the Feds Feeds Families food drive conducted by Marines, Sailors and community members aboard the air station has collected and distributed thousands of pounds of non-perishable food items to a local food bank.

“Feds Feeds Families is a federal program established by President Obama,” said Kerry Stratton, the food drive coordinator. “It encourages federal employees to donate dry goods and other items to their local community during times like these, especially with a lot of people experiencing economic hardships.”

The campaign runs annually during the summer months, said Stratton.

“During the summer when school is out, a lot of less fortunate families have to make some tough choices because they don’t have the school meal programs to assist them with putting food on their tables,” he said.

The Cherry Point community donated more than three tons of food this summer.

Cherry Point families and surrounding community members benefit from the donations, which are given to the Living Waters Ministry Center food bank for distribution. Stratton said more than 100 families have benefitted from the food drive each week during the campaign.

The yearly campaign helps further strengthen the bond between Cherry Point and the surrounding communities, Stratton said.

“Federal employees prove year after year they enjoy giving back to the community and people have really responded well. The staff at Living Waters said the contributions they receive from Cherry Point helps their food shelter provide aid to the community.”

Stratton noted that this year’s contributions were more than double the amount collected last year.

Five Marines and two civilian volunteers rallied together and put in a tremendous amount of personal time and effort to make the drive successful, he said.

“I would like to thank the commanding officer, Col. Zimmerman, for his support,” said Stratton, “along with MCCS (Marine Corps Community Services). Together they have collectively helped the program flourish. I look forward to the future growth of the food drive.”

Although this year’s food drive has concluded, Stratton emphasized the need to keep giving back, especially going into the winter months with several holidays right around the

See **FEDS** page A5



LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

Volunteers with Feds Feed Families unload food donations collected during the last week from various locations aboard Cherry Point and deliver them to the Living Waters Ministry Center food bank in Havelock, N.C., Aug. 31.

Cobb assumes command of ‘Death from Below,’ Burdette bids farewell

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @GESANTYUSMC

Major Scott E. Cobb assumed command officer of 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, replacing Lt. Col. Joel A. Burdette during a ceremony at the battalion headquarters Aug. 31.

Burdette, a native of Tallassee, Ala., will assume the billet of executive officer at Marine Air Control Group 28.

“My time here has gone by too fast,” said Burdette. “I’m proud of them and I wish them well. They’re trained and prepared for their mission, and I know they’ll do right for their next commanding officer.”

Hailing from Cross Lanes, W. Va., Cobb recently returned from a deployment as the Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28 detachment commanding officer. After his return he served as the squadron’s air command control officer. In 1996 Cobb reported to 2nd LAAD for his first duty station and has held several billets within the battalion like platoon commander and battery commanding officer.



Maj. Scott E. Cobb

He said 2nd LAAD feels like home and he is humbled and eager to step in as the new battalion commanding officer. Cobb’s career highlights include a deployment with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, a deployment to Iraq and a deployment to Afghanistan.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

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Grinalds Receives Bronze Star

See A6 for photos and story



With your smartphone download a QR code reader and scan the code.

News Briefs

Officer Promotions October 2012

Marine Administrative Message 483/12, signed Aug. 30 announces officer promotions for September and projected officer promotions for October.

All officers promoted to the grade of colonel are required to submit current biographical data and photographs to the director of Marine Corps history.

If the respective commanding officer determines that an officer is not mentally, physically, morally or professionally qualified for promotion, the promotion shall not be effected.

Officers considering voluntary retirement should review reference D of the MarAdmin for service obligation prior to acceptance of the promotion.

For more information on this promotion board to include requirements visit <http://bit.ly/officerpromo>.

Staff Sergeant Selection Message

Marine Administrative Message 487/12 announced the approved selections for promotion to staff sergeant. Monthly promotions will be announced in separate messages. Nearly 1,600 sergeants were approved for promotion to staff sergeant on Aug. 31, following the staff sergeant selection board.

The following IMOS(s) were closed for staff sergeant promotions: 1141, 1171, 1361, 1812, 1833, 2161, 2834, 3051, 3112, 4641, 4821, 5954, 6048, 6073, 6092, 6113, 6122, 6132, 6173, 6213, 6218, 6222, 6223, 6256, 6276, 6313, 6323, 6333, 6336, 6338, 6414, 6434, 6469, 6492 and 7242.

For more information on this message to include a by-name list of selectees, final zone cutoffs and allocations visit <http://bit.ly/E6promotionmessage>.

2012 All-Marine Soccer Trials

Marine Administrative Message 488/12 announced Marines selected to participate in the 2012 All-Marine Men's soccer trial camp, Sept. 4 through Sept. 24 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

At the conclusion of the trial camp, selected Marines will compete in the Armed Forces Soccer Championship.

Selected Marines from Cherry Point are:

Cpl. Victor Jemester, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Cpl. Anthony Vizuetta, 2nd Marine Logistics Group

Sgt. Jesse Coffey, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/soccertrials>.

Chaplain's Corner.

Inspired by Perseverance

NAVY LT. DEANN C. COLEMAN
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Throughout my Navy career I have attended many different athletic competitive events, however, never a triathlon until Saturday, Aug. 25 here at MCAS Cherry Point. As I stood outside the fence at the Hancock Pool trying to imagine what the swim would look like I could sense excitement in the atmosphere. Voices of wives, husbands, children and parents surrounded me as they wished their loved one well or tried to find them in the sea of people lined up in the five waves of hundreds of adults and children ready to complete the first event in the triathlon, the 400-meter swim.

After the anticipated wait, the race began. One by one the brave participants jumped in the pool swimming four laps down and four laps back. Early in the race one man caught my attention in lane three. I thought he was tired or struggling but then I realized he had a choice of swim different than any other. His tenacity inspired me. I thought to myself, "wow, everyone isn't participating to win; many are participating for fun and/or to say they completed a triathlon." It was obvious this gentleman was not the best swimmer in the pool. Many participants, men, women and children passed him. He didn't seem to get frustrated although I couldn't really interpret his emotions. I was very proud of him because he didn't give up and he didn't allow the stronger and faster performance of others deter him. He kept his pace and swam from lap one to lap eight and his toughness was reflected in his completion of the swim using the side stroke the entire time. I don't know if he switched sides or swam on the same side the entire event, but I do know he started, he completed his eight laps and he finished successfully.

When he exited the pool he was received by clapping and many congratulatory remarks, consistent with each swimmer. Hopefully he was listening and maybe heard in a distance "great job, congratulations" at least from one voice which was mine. I was so excited that I stayed for the entire triathlon which was not my initial intent. I was compelled to experience more of this positive energy. The children were amazing! The men and women old enough to be my older siblings were remarkable! All the individual participants and teams were very courageous!

I want to say thank you to each participant for inspiring so many of us who may have been too timid to participate or too afraid to fail. Some took a chance while others prepared for this event, either way I was proud to say to those who crossed the finished line, "good job!" I ran three miles later that day praying that soon I would be able to participate in events like this. I thought about the young man who swam the side stroke, the family team of a mom who swam, a father who rode the 10 mile bike ride and the young boy with one arm amputated who successfully completed the three mile run.

Every day someone is watching us and although we may not be doing something this great we have an opportunity to encourage someone and inspire them to be better. There are other opposing approaches! What will you choose? Encourage? Empower? Tear down or destroy?

It is my prayer that we seek to inspire and make one another better! May Almighty God bless us with the strength we need to maintain a positive attitude to inspire others every day.

Amen.



Maj. Joseph Bachmann, F-35B Lightning II pilot, touches down after completing the 200th combined Air Force and Marine Corps variant F-35 sortie at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Aug. 24.

F-35 Reaches

Sortie Milestone

Achieves 200th flight

AIR FORCE MAJ. KAREN ROGANOV
33RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In a sign the Lightning II program is progressing forward, Maj. Joseph Bachmann, a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, completed the 33rd Fighter Wing's 200th combined Air Force A variant and Marine Corps B variant F-35 sortie here, Aug. 24.

Bachmann's flight comes 44 days after the wing accomplished its 100th F-35 sortie on July 11, 2012.

The 33rd Fighter Wing completed sorties 101 to 200 in about a third of the time it took to complete flights one to 100.

The first F-35 flight at Eglin AFB took place March 6.

There are 19 joint strike fighters at Eglin as the fleet continues to grow and the team presses forward to train more instructor pilots and develop maintainer courses.

The F-35 incorporates a wide range of new technologies for stealth, multi-mission capabilities, and sustainability.

Corporals carry on

Marine Corps legacy



CPL. SANTIAGO G. COLON JR.

Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Class 274-12 draw swords during an introduction to sword manual, Aug. 17. The three-week course is the first Professional Military Education class enlisted Marines attend and focuses on leadership, history and tradition. The students graduated yesterday. See story and photos on page A3.

The Windsock

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Corporals Leadership Course: Setting the Standard

Week 3: Carrying on the legacy of leadership

CPL. SANTIAGO G. COLON JR.

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @USMC_SANTCOLON

In the hot morning air the voices of experienced sergeants rang out, motivating and encouraging Marines through a simulated combat environment at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Aug. 27.

On a physical training field near the Cherry Point headquarters building, a group of Marine corporals dressed in boots and utilities maneuvered their way through the combat fitness test and into the final leg of their leadership course.

For Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Course Class 274-12 this was the most fitting way to start the morning of their last week of the course.

“Conducting a CFT during the course is very important because as Marines and leaders we need to set the example,” said Cpl. Tammy K. Hine, a combat videographer with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 and a student of Class 274-12. “The physical training during the course was extremely challenging for everyone.”

The last week is geared to be the most challenging but most beneficial because of the academics test and practical application of that knowledge, said Sgt. Lindsey Philpot, an instructor for the course.

“No matter your [military occupational specialty] every Marine is a rifleman,” said Philpot. “With that said they need to know and experience combat leadership roles.”

After two weeks of classes and discussions, it was time for the Marines to get hands-on and practice what they learned.

They drew fire sketch plans, conducted land navigation exercises and wrote a five-paragraph order, a precisely detailed combat plan for a unit of Marines.

The Marines were given a scenario and basic information, and were required to come up with a plan to engage the enemy and accomplish the mission.

For most of the Marines, this was the first time they had written a five-paragraph order, said Gunnery Sgt. Valdez R. Baker, staff noncommissioned officer of the course.

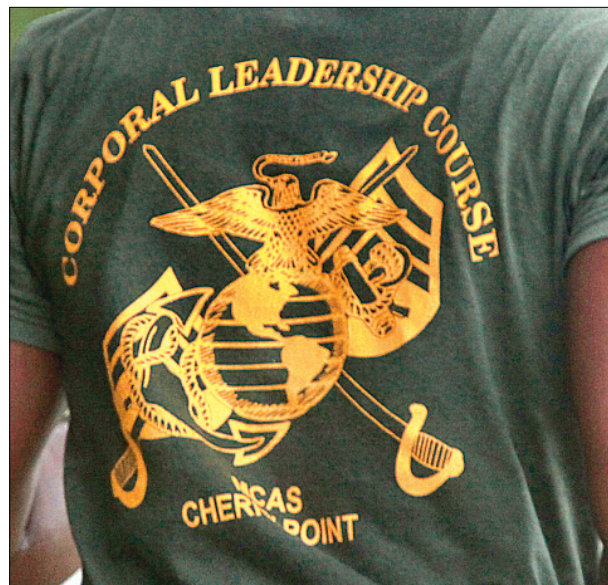
“The purpose of writing one is so they can understand how a commander’s intent would directly affect them as squad leaders or platoon sergeants when they deploy,” said Baker.

Baker added he had Marines who are with aviation units but have deployed with ground units where skills like the ones

they teach during week three are vital to mission success.

The instructors teach time-tested lessons passed from generation to generation of Marines, to build confidence in their ability to take charge, said Philpot.

“One of my [master gunnery sergeants] told me this principle: ‘to be a good leader you must first learn to lead your peers and second, learn how to be led by your peers,’” said Philpot. “During week three that’s what they did. They took orders and they gave them.



PHOTOS BY CPL. SANTIAGO G. COLON JR.

Cpl. Dominique A. Patterson, a student with Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Course 274-12, runs during a physical fitness session at the Cherry Point PFT trail, Aug. 29.

“If you can’t take orders from someone of your same rank, how can you effectively give orders?”

Philpot said the corporals become more effective leaders after going through the course and that he would have confidence in them to take charge and lead a patrol in a combat environment.

To cement the knowledge and skills they have learned during the course, the class endured a comprehensive examination on the last training day, Aug. 31. The exam tested them

on all material covered throughout the course and required specific answers vice multiple-choice questions.

After passing that barrier the Marines who completed the course were able to enjoy an extended Labor Day weekend, and returned Sept. 5 to conduct a motivation run followed by their graduation ceremony.

“That’s why we do what we do, because those Marines gave their lives so we can carry on their *legacy*.”

— Sgt. Lindsey M. Philpot
Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Course instructor

For Hine, the course has reignited the fire inside her to take charge as a leader of Marines.

“Corporals course has given me a renewed sense of leadership,” Hine said. “I encourage every corporal to do it.”

Philpot said he hoped he passed on his passion for the Marine Corps to the students.

“After the Marines gave their toasts during mess night, I took them aside and asked them if they knew what they were toasting to,” said Philpot. “Do you know what happened? Do you know the significance of toasting to the Marines of World War I or Vietnam?”

“I do this because I want them to pride themselves in knowing their history.

“That’s why we do what we do, because those Marines gave their lives so we can carry on their legacy.”

See more photos at <http://bit.ly/cpflickr>.

(Left) Cpl. Christopher W. Hulsey, a student with Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Course 274-12, takes a quick break during a physical fitness session at the Cherry Point PFT trail, Aug. 29.



(Right) Students with Cherry Point Corporals Leadership Course 274-12, execute buddy lunges during a physical fitness session at the Cherry Point PFT trail, Aug. 29.



2nd MAW Marines support anti-drug effort in Guatemala

CONTRIBUTED

MARINE CORPS FORCES SOUTHERN COMMAND

GUATEMALA CITY, – A team of 200 U.S. Marines began patrolling Guatemala's western coast this week in an unprecedented operation to beat drug traffickers in the Central America region, said an U.S. military spokesman Aug. 29.

Four UH-1N Huey helicopter crews and aircraft from HMLA-467 are part of Detachment Martillo of U.S. Marine Corps Forces South and are participating in Operation Martillo. The detachment conducted a Mission Rehearsal Exercise prior to operations beginning in Guatemala.

Detachment Martillo, under operational control of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South, is comprised of a number of units from II Marine Expeditionary Force. Operation Martillo is led by Joint-Interagency Task Force-South, of the U.S. Southern Command, and is designed to help stem the flow of narcotics through Central America and its Pacific and Caribbean coasts by denying transnational criminal organizations littorals used for illicit trafficking.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Travis A Jakovcic, a UH-1N Huey crewmember with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 looks back at another crew and aircraft during takeoff.



(Left) Marines from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 unload a UH-1N Huey helicopter in Guatemala City, Aug. 11.

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only a stone's throw away. This isn't your run-of-the-mill makeup of small town USA. It calls for a cheek-to-cheek relationship with heavily-armed jets, and heavy-duty airplanes and helicopters.

Worries of encroachment on military operations in eastern North Carolina essentially didn't exist 50 or 60 years ago, explains George Radford, director of the Cherry Point Environmental Affairs Department, whose experience with encroachment and environmental issues here dates back to 1988. But, adds Radford, over time it became clear that solutions were needed to create safety buffers around the air station and its associated outlying airfields.

Solutions include cooperative agreements and legislation that make it easier to avoid the standard pitfalls created by up-and-coming communities surrounding active airfields, all while providing other, more subtle benefits to the community.

"We've used partnerships with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and several other environmental organizations with the mission to protect environmental interests," says Radford. Through these relationships, the air station and the Navy have purchased property or protective easements to shield citizens from potential mishaps, all while providing additional protections for the environment.

The blueprint for both parties' encroachment policies centralizes on Cherry Point's Air Installations Compatible Use Zones program, which is an active command effort at Cherry Point to work with local, state, regional, and other federal agencies and community leaders to encourage compatible development of land adjacent to our airfields. These zones are areas where there are high volumes of aviation operations, accident potential zones and noise contours, explains Harris, who manages the AICUZ program here.

Cherry Point has responsibilities reaching far beyond its main complex here – it has outlying airfields, an auxiliary landing field and bombing ranges peppered throughout eastern North Carolina – each of which has its own encroachment challenges. These off-base land purchases and property easements exist amid concentrations of timber, wetlands, farmland and coastlines preserving wildlife for future generations of campers, fishermen and family outings.

It is tempting for landowners to financially capitalize on coastline or high market value property, says Radford, but some landowners have demonstrated that there can be long-lasting mutual benefits from easement agreements between the Marine Corps and members of the community.

"The Guthrie Farm off U.S. Highway 24, they grow Bogue Sound watermelons, they have for years," says Radford of a family that chose to sell restrictive easements for their property instead of selling it for development that would be incompatible with Cherry Point's Bogue Field flight operations. "They had the desire to keep it as a farm into the future, which is definitely compatible with us. It was win-win for both parties."

The easements are aimed at protecting endangered species, rare plants, natural coastal settings, water quality, and, in this example, the Guthries protected a family legacy, while agreeing that residential dwellings and hazardous aviation obstructions like cell phone towers or wind turbines will not be built on these properties. The property owner keeps and farms the land, but sells certain property rights to protect local fliers

as well as the environment.

In areas that are not suitable for purchase, other tools are used to protect the public. Through cooperation with local government, zoning legislation is created to prevent incompatible development and construction in danger zones, again with the goal of protecting the public. Other legislation requires disclosures of real estate proximity within the airfields' noise and accident potential zones, an effort championed by Harris for eight years now, this with the goal of ensuring citizens are aware of the potential risks and of the higher levels of noise associated with military aircraft here. "It's about always being ahead of the game and always working together as we have learned to do for many years," explains Harris.

To anyone who is actually paying attention, Cherry Point, its surrounding training areas and the communities that have grown up around them are all parts of one giant community that must watch out for each other to survive – something that people here figured out a long time ago.

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possession of the Cherry Point Fire Department but will be used by the Marines of ARFF, PMO and for combined training operations among all the entities.

"The Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting are extremely excited about the Cherry Point Fire Department's new live-burn building," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tina Burt, the airfield emergencies officer with ARFF.

"A few Marines have not conducted live-burn structural training since graduating from the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas."

She said completion of the live-burn building will help sustain the Marines' proficiency and will support new training and readiness requirements in structural response and operations required of the ARFF Marines.

The new four-story tower includes added obstacles and up-to-date equipment to keep the emergency crews on their toes.

"The new building also includes an in-set balcony on the second floor to conduct simulated rescues into barracks like the ones on base," added Johnson.

Other additions to the new facility include rappelling stations, forcible entry stations, simulated residential, commercial and industrial scenarios, wall-to-wall anchor points for intervention teams and a reconfigurable self-contained breathing apparatus maze.

"The new facility will also assist in a better working relationship between ARFF and the CPFD, because it will help us recognize and be comfortable with each other's capabilities," said Burt.

The total cost of the new facility is approximately \$320,000. The tower is currently going through its final construction stages of laying concrete and pavement for the parking lot. The facility is scheduled to be completed the first week of September.

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corner.

"If you are able to donate year round, it is vital to continue to give back to the community," he said. "This is a year-round need, and it always will be."

Former HMLA-269 commander awarded Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Allen D. Grinalds, the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing aviation training standardization officer, was awarded the Bronze Star medal by Maj. Gen. Glenn M. Walters, the 2nd MAW commanding general, Aug. 21 for his accomplishments while serving as the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 commanding officer in Afghanistan. Grinalds said the award “belongs to the Marines of the squadron” who accumulated more than 3,100 combat flight hours while executing more than 800 joint tactical air requests, 36 named operations and 63 point-of-injury medical evacuation escorts during the unit’s 214 continuous days of 24-hour attack helicopter support. “This is a testament to the Marines of the squadron. They had great attitudes while operating in such a demanding environment,” he added. Grinalds’ wife Mimi, his four children, his father, Maj. Gen. John S. Grinalds, USMC (Ret.), and his mother Norwood attended the awards presentation.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. YOSSELYN A. MUNNERLYN

F-35 test flight



ANDY WOLFE

F-35 test pilots Marine Corps Maj. C. R. Clift and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Burks, fly during a formation flying qualities test in the Atlantic Test Range Aug. 22. Testing formation flying qualities provides data on handling characteristics. The F-35B is the variant of the Joint Strike Fighter designed for use by the Marine Corps. The F-35B is capable of short take-offs and vertical landings to enable air power projection from amphibious ships and expeditionary airfields. The F-35B is undergoing test and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River, Md., prior to delivery to the fleet.



CPL. REECE LODDER

Former U.S. Marine Cpl. T.J. Croft (in red), a Vietnam veteran who served with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, views a military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) training facility during a visit to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, Aug. 22, 2012. Croft, a native of Omaha, Neb., served in Vietnam as a forward observer from 1966-1967. Nearly half a century since they fought through hell in Vietnam, approximately 30 former 2/3 Marines and their families visited the base to reminisce on their service and render honor to a brother lost in combat, Sgt. Maj. Wayne Hayes. Hayes was killed in action, Feb. 28, 1967, during Operation Prairie II while serving with many of the 2/3 veterans.

The memories never fade: Marines, Vietnam veterans pay tribute to fallen leader

CPL. REECE LODDER

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — KANEHOE BAY

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

— Nearly half a century has passed since the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment fought through hell in Vietnam. The strains of combat have long imprisoned the vigor of their youth. Bodies have changed and reflexes slowed. Fresh, young faces of earlier days are ripe with weathered character. The men have lived a lifetime beyond war, but their memories remain vivid.

Approximately 30 Vietnam-era 2/3 Marines and their families visited Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Aug. 22, 2012, to reminisce on their service and render honor to a brother lost in combat, Sgt. Maj. Wayne Hayes.

“Coming together like this helps a lot of Marines,” said retired Master Sgt. Eddie Wyatt, a Vietnam-era rifleman who served with Fox Company, 2/3. “They’ve buried emotions for years. They’ve lived with nightmares. Being able to come out and talk about these has helped them heal ... to release their demons.”

Following a warm welcome by 3rd Marine Regiment’s commanding officer and sergeant major — Col. Nathan Nastase and Sgt. Maj. Justin Lehw — the salty Marines stepped back into service through a brief at the chapel highlighting the current state of today’s Marine Corps.

Besides inspiring a generation of men like him to join the Marine Corps, Lehw said, the Vietnam veterans’ experiences were a catalyst for growth and development in

the Corps.

“A lot of the changes and improvements in today’s Marine Corps are a reaction to the conditions the Vietnam veterans lived in,” said Lehw, a Navy Cross recipient. “They’re very proud to see that a lot of the work they did ... what they fought for ... paved the way for the changes made today.”

Stepping outside, the veterans were greeted by infantrymen from 3rd Marines. They gawked at modern weaponry and marveled at the advances in combat equipment.

“The new gear is pretty impressive,” said Wyatt, a native of Stanley, N.C. “We didn’t have any of this in Vietnam. We were still carrying flamethrowers from World War II and Korea!”

A short drive from base brought them to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, where they viewed professionally crafted, realistic urban villages used by Marine and Army units during pre-deployment training.

The break for lunch at the base’s Anderson Hall Dining Facility hit close to home for many of the Marines. The ‘chow hall’ is named in memory of Pfc. James Anderson, Jr., a rifleman with Fox Co., 2/3., who many of the veterans served alongside. He died Feb. 28, 1967, in Cam Lo, Vietnam, after jumping on an enemy grenade to save the men around him. They survived and Anderson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the first African American in Vietnam to receive the nation’s highest award for valor.

Despite the solemn memory, the veterans swapped memories of combat chow (individually canned C-rations) and mess duty (formerly a 30-day duty for which low-ranking Marines were selected to help prepare and serve food). Former Sgt. Milton Hoch, a 2/3 radio operator who earned two Purple Heart Medals in Vietnam, marveled at the well-stocked salad bar and a tasty serving of deep-fried okra. Following a brief visit to the Wounded Warrior Battalion West — Detachment Hawaii barracks, the group mustered at the Rocker Room Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club for appetizers, drinks and the main reason for attendance — to honor their fallen brother Hayes.

While serving as 2/3’s battalion sergeant major in Vietnam during Operation Prairie II, Hayes was killed in action, Feb. 28, 1967 — the same day as Anderson. The 39-year-old husband, father and highly decorated war hero left behind his wife and three young children.

The same year, a painting memorializing Hayes was commissioned and placed in ‘The Hayes Room’ of the Officers Club on Defense Depot Ogden, Utah. Thirty years later, DDO was shut down and the painting disappeared.

Hayes’ youngest and only daughter, Deborah Mongiovi, began searching for the painting shortly after. Years proved fruitless until, with help from Joe O’Connor, a Marine who served with her father, she located the painting at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.

In front of a crowd of men who served

alongside Hayes, his daughter and Lehw drew a red sheet off the wall to reveal a stunning reproduction of the painting. Mounted next to a letter of remembrance and a shadow box overflowing with Hayes’ medals and ribbons, the painting finally found its home ... 45 years after its creation.

“This story is just one more example of ‘once a Marine, always a Marine,’” Mongiovi, from Escondido, Calif., told the veterans. “None of you have ever let go of your faith and loyalty to your own. I can’t say it will ever be closed, but my circle is a much warmer place than it was without you.”

Though only 7 years old at the time of her father’s death, Mongiovi said meeting his fellow 2/3 Marines has helped restore many memories of her father. With a pained smile on her face, she remembers the tall, handsome man who “always had a twinkle in his eye when he looked at me.”

The Vietnam veterans of 2/3 were greeted with scorn when they returned from war. Lehw hoped 3rd Marines’ reception properly acknowledged their service and sacrifice.

“The reception Marines get when they return from deployments today is over the top compared to the one these men received when they came home,” Lehw said. “But it’s never too late to make these Marines feel welcome. The veterans and their families saw the amount of love and concern we had for them today ... and the looks on their faces were unforgettable.”



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

A Marine with Marine Air Control Group 28 flips a 150-pound tire during a squadron competition Aug. 30 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Approximately 1,500 Marines competed in the event.

Marines battle to settle squadron rivalry

LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

[FOLLOW @STSTEWARTUSMC](#)

After nearly two years since they last competed, approximately 1,500 Marines with Marine Air Control Group 28 assembled at Cherry Point's softball fields to compete for the Group 28 Trophy Aug. 30.

Marines from each of the six squadrons that fall within the group competed in the event, to include: 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Marine Air Support Squadron 1, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 and Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2.

"Building camaraderie and esprit de corps is important for us," said Col. Peter J. DeVine, the group's commanding officer. "We came out here to do just that."

The first event was a flak jacket relay. A Marine from each squadron donned a flak jacket and sprinted 400 meters around the softball field. As Marines completed the circuit, they transferred the flak jackets to the next relay.

The fields were muddy and wet, making the competition even more challenging for the participants.

"The rain has made the field muddy," said Sgt. Jessy G. Nelson, the training chief for MACG-28. "But that just makes the competition more fun for the Marines."

Next was the M-240B machine gun assembly and disassembly relay. The first Marine in each relay ran 25 meters to the weapon and disassembled it. He then ran back to his team and the next Marine raced to reassemble the weapon.

Round three was a fireman's carry relay. Trying not to fall in the mud, Marines ran 50 meters down field carrying a fellow Marine on their backs then switched places with their partners who sprinted back to the start-

ing point.

The Group 28 Marines were covered in mud and sweat as they trudged through the puddles to the fourth competition, the 200-meter logistics run.

During this event each team distributed multiple ammo cans, water jugs, and a litter with a Marine in it acting as a casualty among its team members and raced 100 meters down the field and back.

At the next stop in their journey to achieving the win, the Marines flipped a 150-pound tire 25 meters.

In the final event, the Humvee push, seven Marines from each team had to push the bulky vehicle 20 meters in a timed event.

Scoring results came back with two teams tied for first place: defending champions 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion and Marine Air Control Squadron 2.

The Marines from both squadrons seemed excited to solve the matter with an old-fashioned tug-of-war contest.

They started in the pushup position, laying face-down in the mud, and waited for the command to jump up and grab the rope.

Both teams fought hard, but in the end MACS-2 pulled their way to victory.

"The Marines had fun and they preformed great," said Sgt. Maj. Lisa K. Nilsson, MACG-28 sergeant major. "They were loud and motivating. All the squadrons did their best and I am proud of the Marines."

(Right) A Marine with Marine Air Control Group 28 fireman carries a fellow Marine 50 meters during a squadron competition Aug. 30.



Marines with 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion heave together during a tug-of-war contest during a Marine Air Control Group 28 squadron competition Aug. 30. Marines from each of the six squadrons that fall under the group competed in the event, but MACS-2 pulled their way to victory.

CHERRY POINT MESS HALL

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday

*Breakfast 6-8 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.,
Dinner 4-6 p.m.*

Saturday-Sunday/ Holiday Hours

*Breakfast/Lunch 8:30-11 a.m.,
Dinner 3-5 p.m.*

FAST FOOD LINE

Monday-Friday

*Breakfast 6-8 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Dinner 4-6 p.m.*

Breakfast Menu

Assorted fresh fruit, assorted hot and cold cereals, fried eggs and omelets to order, scrambled eggs and hard cooked eggs, grill special, pancakes, French toast or waffles, breakfast potatoes, breakfast meats, creamed beef or sausage gravy, assorted muffins, breads and breakfast pastries.

Specialty Bar Menu & Blendz

Tuesday and Thursday Lunch (Blendz) - Banana-strawberry yogurt, banana-blackberry yogurt, banana-peach yogurt, banana-pineapple yogurt, banana mango yogurt, banana-blueberry yogurt, Asian chicken chopped salad, Asian beef chopped salad, Savannah fried chicken salad, Southwest chicken strip salad, chef salad bowl, buffalo chicken salad, turkey club salad, beef fajita salad, BLT club salad, Southwest flank steak salad, chicken caesar salad, Chinese chicken salad, antipasto salad.

Monday - Pasta primavera, lasagna, chicken rotini casserole, baked ziti with four cheeses, meatballs, baked Italian sausage, boiled rigatoni, boiled spaghetti, simmered ziti, simmered linguine, simmered fettuccini, simmered penne rigate, simmered rotini, Italian meat sauce, alfredo sauce, caesar salad, toasted garlic bread and breadsticks.

Wednesday - Chicken enchiladas, taco beef filling, burritos, Mexican rice, refried beans with cheese, Mexican corn, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, chopped onions, sliced jalapeno peppers, taco shells, flour tortillas, taco sauce, salsa, sour cream.

Friday - Wings of fire, honeyed BBQ wings, teriyaki wings, French fried chicken wings, French fried garlic fries, corn on the cob, baked beans, carrot sticks, celery sticks, blue cheese dressing, ranch dressing.

Weekly Menu

Thursday September 6

Lunch - Green chili and corn stew, Indian spiced roast chicken, long grain and wild rice, steamed broccoli, Harvard beets, chicken with rice soup **Dinner** - Lemon chicken, Salisbury steak, oven brown potatoes, Spanish rice, sautéed mushrooms and onions, southern style greens, brown gravy, bean bacon soup

Friday September 7

Lunch - Baked fish with spinach topping, chicken and cheese enchiladas, golden jewel multigrain blend, Yucatan style rice, steamed vegetable medley, herbed green beans, new England fish chowder, **Dinner** - Stuffed green peppers, grilled bratwurst, steamed rice, Lyonais potatoes, sautéed zucchini, German sauerkraut, Louisiana seafood gumbo

Saturday September 8

Lunch - Honey bbq chicken, vegetable lasagna, Franconia potatoes, Italian vegetable blend, simmered pinto beans, Minnesota, wild rice soup **Dinner** - Beef and corn pie, French fried shrimp, French fried fish, tater tots, turnips and bacon, vegetable stir fry, cabbage and white bean soup

Sunday September 9

Lunch - Baked fish w/butter crumb topping, herbed baked chicken, potatoes au gratin, confetti rice, herbed-roasted carrots, balsamic roasted vegetables, tomato soup **Dinner** - Pork chops with smothered onion, chili macaroni, roasted sweet potatoes, French cut green beans, cauliflower combo and Wisconsin cheese soup

Monday September 10

Lunch - Open faced steak sandwich, Cajun lightning chicken, rice pilaf, green beans nicoise, sautéed summer squash with tomatoes **Dinner** - Vegetarian split pea soup, spaghetti with meat sauce, barbecued spareribs, scalloped potatoes, steamed broccoli,

Tuesday September 11

Lunch - Louisiana chicken and sausage, gumbo, southern fried catfish fillets, turkey with vegetable, primavera, roasted, Zucchini, potatoes au gratin, calico cabbage, hush puppies, **Dinner** - Tomato noodle soup, Yankee pot roast, Casablanca vegetable stew, oven browned potatoes, steamed rice, corn on the cob, sweet sour greens

Wednesday September 12

Lunch - Hearty winter vegetable soup, maple mustard pork loin, chicken parmesan, whipped sweet potatoes, penne rigate, noodles, marinara sauce, ratatouille, broccoli, cheese, and rice, breadsticks **Dinner** - Chicken tortilla soup, Texas BBQ beef brisket, baked tuna and noodles, baked macaroni and cheese, vegetable stir fry, beans fiesta

Drive Safely

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

MARINE CORPS SAFETY AND FORCE PROTECTION

Driving is an essential element in our daily routine. We utilize motor vehicles to commute to and from work, visit family and friends, and at times reach our vacation destinations.

However, for business or pleasure, driving is a task that should not be taken lightly.

The early edition of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2009 Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report states that of the 5.5 million police reported motor vehicle traffic accidents across America, 30,797 were fatalities, 1.5 million involved injuries, and nearly 4 million involved property damage.

The causal factors associated with these crashes are vast.

MARINE CORPS SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM

Did you know? The Marine Corps experienced 20 Class-A personal motor vehicle mishaps (four-wheel) resulting in 23 fatalities in 2011.

Whether caused by speeding, distracted driving, driving under the influence, or driving while fatigued, most accidents can be avoided by using skills learned in a comprehensive driver education program.

Though vehicle accidents continue to claim the lives of tens of thousands of Americans and injure millions more every year, most accidents are avoidable.

Arming Marines with the correct information and driver education, gives them a greater opportunity to be safe on the road and stay alive.

The Marine Corps driver education courses were developed to improve operator skills and habits by fostering positive driving behavior and attitudes in order to reduce injuries and deaths of Marines due to vehicle mishaps.

For more information about safe driving, visit the CMC safety division webpage at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/safety/Pages/welcome> or call 703-614-1202.



COURTESY PHOTO

Most accidents can be avoided by using skills learned in a comprehensive driver education program.



FREE
OPEN TO
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PATRONS.

Gary Sinise

and the Lieutenant Dan Band

Date:

SUN, 16 SEP

Time:

EVENT SITE OPENS AT 1400
SHOWTIME 1500

Place:

W.P.T. HILL FIELD

MCCSLEJEUNE.COM/LTDANBAND

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Designate 11381 through the CFC
An Entertainment Feature presented by the Armed Forces (USAF) and USO in cooperation with your local Marine, Welfare and Recreation Office. The acceptance of corporate sponsorship of this USO USO tour does not constitute endorsement of the sponsor's product or service by the Department of Defense or the U.S. Armed Forces.

MCAS Cherry Point STATION THEATER

E Street

Movie Hotline: 466-3884

Visit us at www.mccscherrypoint.com

Adults only \$4 • Kids (4-12) only \$3

NOW SHOWING

Thursday, September 6

6:00pm - Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection PG 13

Friday, September 7

5:00pm - People Like Us PG 13

8:00pm - The Dark Knight Rises PG 13

Saturday, September 8

2:00pm - Ice Age: Continental Drift PG

4:30pm - People Like Us PG 13

7:00pm - Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection PG 13

9:30pm - The Dark Knight Rises PG 13

Sunday, September 9

2:00pm - Ice Age: Continental Drift PG

4:30pm - The Dark Knight Rises PG 13

Tuesday, September 11

6:00pm - Rio PG

Wednesday, September 12

6:00pm - Magic Mike R



MOVIE SYNOPSIS

Madea's Witness Protection - Starring: Tyler Perry, Eugene Levy, Romeo. George wakes up to learn that his firm, Lookwise Industries, has been operating a mob-backed Ponzi scheme and that he's been set up as the fall guy. Facing criminal charges and death threats from the mob, George and his entire family are put under witness protection in the safest place that Brian, a federal prosecutor from Atlanta, can think of... His Aunt Madea's house down South.

People Like Us - Starring: Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks, Michael D Addario. Sam is a young, fast-paced salesman who reluctantly returns home when he learns his father has died unexpectedly. In the course of putting his father's estate in order and reconnecting with his estranged family, Sam discovers he has an older sister. As their relationship develops, Sam must to rethink everything he thought he knew about this family and take a hard look at his own life choices.

Ice Age: Continental Drift - Starring the voices of: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Manny, Diego, and Sid embark upon their greatest adventure after cataclysm sets an entire continent adrift. Separated from the rest of the herd, they use an iceberg as a makeshift ship, which launches them on an epic seafaring quest.

Rio - Starring the voices of: Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, George Lopez. Blu is a domesticated Macaw who never learned to fly, and enjoys a comfortable life with his owner and best friend Linda in the small town of Moose Lake, Minnesota. Blu and Linda think he is the last of his kind, but when they learn about another macaw who lives in Rio de Janeiro, they head to the faraway and exotic land to find Jewel, Blu's female counterpart.

Magic Mike - Starring: Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer, Matthew McConaughey. Set in the world of male strippers, Mike takes a young dancer called The Kid under his wing and schools him in the fine arts of partying, picking up women, and making easy money.

The Dark Knight Rises - Starring: Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Gary Oldman. It has been eight years since Batman vanished into the night, turning, in that instant, from hero to fugitive. Assuming the blame for the death of D.A. Harvey Dent, the Dark Knight sacrificed everything for what he and Commissioner Gordon both hoped was the greater good.

Movies are subject to change without notice

The Local Buzz

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

► Horse Sense and Survival Tour

Join a ranger for a half-day walking trip to find the wild horses of Shackelford Banks, during the September Ranger Programs, hosted by the National Parks Service Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information, call Wouter Ketel at 728-2250.

Carteret Ole Time Family Fun Festival

Hot dog cook-off, battle of the bands, children’s games, tug-of-war contest, petting zoo, antique car show and more will be found at the “Ole Time” festival Saturday. The festival will be held at Camp Albemarle in Newport, N.C., 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 762-4848 or visit the event website at <http://www.facebook.com/carterethomecoming>.

► National Geographic Crittercam

What do animals do when humans aren’t around? Take a rare peek into the private lives of animals through Crittercams, imaging devices worn safely by animals. Exhibit open through Sept. 16 at the Discovery Place and Charlotte Nature Museum. For more information, call 704-372-6262 ext. 300 or visit <http://www.discoveryplace.org>

► CFC Kickoff Event

The Cherry Point Combined Federal Campaign will kickoff with an event at the station theater Sept. 13 from 3-7:30 p.m. There will be activities for all, including a unit competition for the CFC Cup, moonwalks, music, a karaoke competition and a car/bike show. For more information or to sign up visit <http://bit.ly/cfckaraoke>.

► Crystal Coast Grand Prix

Experience two days of speed and excitement as the fastest boats in the world race at the Crystal Coast Grand Prix in Morehead City, N.C., Sept. 14 – 15. Event starts with a meet and greet with the racers and a parade of boats. For more information, call 269-7682.

Lt Dan Band Concert

Back by popular demand, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will perform at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Sept. 16, at W.P.T. Hill Field. The event site opens at 2 p.m. Show time is 3 p.m. No tickets necessary. For more information, call 910-451-0642.

► New Bern Battle of the Bands

Twin Rivers YMCA, New Bern Parks and Recreation and Port Human Services have teamed together to bring New Bern’s inaugural battle of the bands Sept. 22. Specifically highlighting teen bands, musicians, singers and other performers, the festival will be held on the ground of the Twin Rivers YMCA. Additional details will be announced soon, stay connected on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/nbbattleofthebands>.

Operation Ball Gown Accepting Dresses

Gently used gowns are being accepted for “Operation Ball Gown” scheduled for Sept. 28. Drop-off locations are Marine Corps Family Team Building and the Whistle Stop Thrift Shop aboard the air station, and Intimate Bridal in Morehead City. For more information, call 466-4637.

► AMTRAK Service Reaches Havelock

Amtrak will establish two new bus service routes to Eastern North Carolina, one serving the communities of Greenville, New Bern, Havelock and Morehead City, and a second serving Goldsboro, Kinston, Jacksonville and Wilmington. Both routes will connect with the Amtrak Palmetto train service at the Amtrak Station in Wilson, N.C., starting Oct. 3. For more information, schedules or fares, call 800-USA-RAIL, or follow on <http://www.facebook.com/Amtrak> or <http://www.twitter.com/Amtrak>.

MumFest

The 32nd annual MumFest celebration is coming to the restored streets and waterfront of historic downtown New Bern, N.C., Oct. 13 – 14. New this year: model car show and the Indy Tour exhibit, the Sea Fair floating art gallery and New Bern’s own version of “Dancing with the Stars.” For More information, call Swiss Bear at 638-5781 or visit the <http://mumfest.com> website.

Tours of Cedar Grove Cemetery

The Craven Chapter of Questers International and the New Bern Historical Society will provide tours of Cedar Grove Cemetery through November. Tours offer glimpses into the lives of more than two centuries of New Bernians. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the New Bern Historical Society, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or at the gate prior to the tour. All tours begin at 4 p.m. • Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 • Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 • Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 For more information, call 635-1374.

Education Fairs

The Cherry Point Education office will be hosting monthly Career and Education Fairs, for authorized air station patrons. Fairs are held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Jerry Marvel Training and Education building, room 171b. The next fairs are as follows: • Sept. 28 • Oct. 19 • Nov. 30. For more information or to find out about next month’s meeting call, Dana Bayliss, at 466-2046.

Marine and Family Programs

Marine, Family Programs Office Numbers

- The Family Member Employment Program, Transition Assistance Management Program, Relocation Assistance Program and accredited financial counselors can be reached at 466-4201.
- Child Development Resource and Referral, –466-3595.
- Library – 466-3552.
- LifeLong Learning – 466-3500.
- Military Family Life Consultant – 876-8016.
- Retired Activities – 466-5548.

Now in Building 87

- Exceptional Family Member Program – 466-3305.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program – 466-5490.
- Substance Abuse Counseling – 466-7568.
- New Parent Support Program – 466-3651.
- Family Advocacy Program – 466-3264.

Budget for Baby

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers Budget for Baby classes. To register, call 466-2031.

Breastfeeding Class

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers free breastfeeding classes to expectant mothers. The purpose of the class is to help prepare the mother to be ready and confident to breastfeed once the baby arrives. To register, call 466-2031.

Veterans’ Assistance

A representative from the Veterans Affairs Office visits Cherry Point each Thursday in building 4335. Call 466-4201 for assistance.

Monthly and Weekly Events

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Al-Anon family group meetings are held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for family members and friends of individuals with possible alcohol problems. Meetings are held at Havelock First Baptist Church. For more information, call 447-8063.

Cycle Classes

Cycle classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Semper Fit Center aboard the air station at 11 and 11:50 a.m. For more information, call 466-1147.

Water Aerobics

Water aerobics classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Cedar Creek Pool aboard the air station at noon. For more information, call 466-1147.

Courage to Change

Cherry Point and Havelock Courage to Change support group is for friends

and families of people who suffer from alcoholism. Meetings are held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Havelock, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, call 241-6155 or 670-6236.

Marine Corps League Meetings

Cherry Point’s detachment of the Marine Corps League meets the third Tuesday of each month at Miller’s Landing at 7 p.m. For more information, call 515-1175.

Dart Tournament

Weekly dart tournaments at the Road House restaurant and recreation facility are held Thursdays at 8 p.m. For more information, call 241-6155 or 466-3044.

Disabled Veterans

Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center in Havelock at 7 p.m. For information, contact Ancil Jones at 622-5245.

Domestic Violence Support

Support groups for victims of domestic violence are provided by the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program. The group meetings are held Wednesdays at 6 p.m. For more information, call 728-3788.

Basic Budgeting

Learn basic financial management skills in room 159 of the Training and Education building. The classes for 2012 will be held Sept. 6, Oct. 11, Nov. 6 and Dec. 6, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 466-4201.

New Bible Study

Modern lessons from ancient combat stories. First and third Thursday, 12 – 1 p.m., at the station chapel. For more information e-mail the station chaplain, at steve.voris@usmc.mil.

Zumba

Zumba exercise classes are held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Marine Dome aboard the air station at 5 p.m. For more information, call 466-1147.

Hotlines

2nd MAW Command Inspector General
466-5038

Station Inspector
466-3449

Fraud, Waste and Abuse
If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Cherry Point, call 466-2016. This line’s automated answering service is available 24/7.

Sexual Assault
This procedure is not meant to replace calling 911 if you are in immediate danger. Immediately call 665-4713, which is monitored 24/7. The person answering the call will help you decide the next steps to take. You may remain anonymous.

Severe Weather and Force Protection
Cherry Point personnel call 466-3093. FRC East personnel call 464-8333. DDCN personnel call 466-4083.

This month in Marine Corps History

From the USMC History Division

Sept. 2, 1945 The Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies onboard the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay. With Gen. Holland Smith transferred home in July 1945, the senior Marine Corps representative at the historic ceremony was Lt. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, who had succeeded Smith as commanding general, Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

Sept. 8, 1942 On Guadalcanal, the 1st Raider Battalion and the 1st Parachute Battalion, supported by planes of Marine Aircraft Group 23 and two destroyer transports, landed east of Tasimboko, advanced west into the rear of Japanese positions, and carried out a successful raid on a Japanese supply base.

Sept. 27, 1944 The American flag was raised over Peleliu, Palau Islands, at the 1st Marine Division command post. Although the flag raising symbolized that the island was secured, pockets of determined Japanese defenders continued to fight on. As late as April 21, 1947, 27 Japanese holdouts finally surrendered to the American naval commander on the scene.

NEXT
UP...

SPRINT CUP
Race: Federated Auto Parts 400
Where: Richmond International Raceway
When: Saturday, 7 p.m. (ET)
TV: ABC
2011 Winner: Kevin Harvick (right)



NATIONWIDE SERIES
Race: Virginia 529 College Savings 250
Where: Richmond International Raceway
When: Friday, 7 p.m. (ET)
TV: ESPN
2011 Winner: Kyle Busch

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS
Race: American Ethanol 200
Where: Iowa Speedway
When: Sept. 15, 8 p.m. (ET)
TV: SPEED
Inaugural Race



By RICK MINTER / Universal Uclick



Denny Hamlin, driver of the No. 11 Toyota, races ahead of Jeff Gordon, driver of the No. 24 Chevrolet, during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday. (NASCAR photo)

First 20 years

Gordon marks two decades of Cup and earlier racing

Jeff Gordon was born in Vallejo, Calif., then moved with his family as a teenager to Pittsboro, Ind., to pursue his racing career. But it was down South where Gordon had some of the milestone events of his racing career.

Most everyone who follows auto racing knows that it was at Atlanta Motor Speedway 20 years ago that Gordon made his first start in the series now known as Sprint Cup. That was in the 1992 Hooters 500, Richard Petty's last as a driver and one that saw a dramatic end to the championship battle, as Alan Kulwicki finished second in the race but beat race winner Bill Elliott for the title because he led one more lap, and those bonus points for leading the most laps were the difference in the championship.

Many also know that it was at Atlanta where Gordon got his first major NASCAR victory, earlier in 1992 in the series now known as Nationwide. He also got his first-ever top-five finish in NASCAR at a small short track north of Atlanta, Lanier Raceway in Braselton, Ga., in a race for the series now known as Nationwide.

Before that, he made his first start in a sprint car at a dirt track near Jacksonville, Fla., and really got going in sprint cars in the 1985 Winternationals at East Bay Raceway near Tampa.

Gordon said his first sprint car start wasn't an indication of what his racing future held.

"It went terrible," he said. Then he traveled across Florida to East Bay, another track where 15-year-old drivers like he was at that time were allowed to compete.

"It was a track very capable of us getting good laps and getting my feet wet in the sprint car," he said. "By the last night we were moving along pretty good."

And that's impressive given the fact that



Jeff Gordon visits the Georgia Aquarium while in Atlanta for Sunday's AdvoCare 500. (NASCAR photo)

the starting fields included sprint car legends like Dave Blaney, Doug Wolfgang, Jack Hewitt, Steve Kinser and Kelly Kinser, although Gordon said he wasn't really focusing on them at the time.

"I was a long way from competing with them," he said.

By the time he joined NASCAR's Busch Series, now known as Nationwide, he had become a much better driver.

He said his first NASCAR win, at Atlanta in a Baby Ruth-sponsored Ford, wasn't an upset by any means.

"It was my second year driving for Bill Davis," he said. "We came off a year where we ran good but were missing a little something. But we came out guns loaded in '92. We had some new power and a new body style."

"We came into Atlanta and just flew. It was an incredible day. We were fast in practice, sat on the pole."

But that race was no cakewalk, even though he led 103 of 197 laps.

"We had Mark Martin, Dale Earnhardt, Bill

Elliott, a bunch of heavy hitters in that race, not to mention the Nationwide or Busch Series guys."

And Gordon had several issues to overcome, including running out of fuel at one point.

"We had to come from behind to get back to the front," he said.

Gordon also has fond memories of his days running at Lanier, a 3/8-mile oval track across Ga. Highway 53 from Road Atlanta.

It was at Lanier in 1991 that he got his first top-five finish in NASCAR.

He started third and ran second to David Green.

"We were in a pretty heated battle with David for Rookie of the Year," Gordon said. "He got a win, and we didn't."

"He had us covered that night at Lanier."

Then in 1992, he dominated the early portions of the Lanier race, leading the first 177 laps from the pole before being derailed by a mechanical issue.

"I remember that race very specifically," he said. "We started on the pole, were very fast and were leading and had a problem with the bolt that holds on the air cleaner."

The stud that held the air cleaner to the carburetor broke off and caused Gordon's throttle to begin sticking. He made a pit stop and his team removed the air cleaner and sent him back on the track. NASCAR officials did not approve of the stop-gap measure.

"They penalized me and made me come back in and fix it," Gordon said.

Bobby Labonte wound up winning, while Gordon recovered to finish 10th.

"I always liked Lanier," Gordon said. "I raced there one time in a Midget and ran good."

Atlanta's big track also has been good to Gordon. He's won there five times and finished second in the most recent race.

NOTEBOOK

Ty Dillon wins a family victory

For years, it was a common sight in the NASCAR garages across America to see team owner Richard Childress escorting his grandsons Austin and Ty Dillon around the tracks.

Even in the heat of battles on the track and when his input was needed in practice sessions, Childress always took time to make sure his grandsons were safely down from atop a hauler and out of harm's way before he proceeded to his duties with the race team.

When the boys started racing, Childress was there, offering support, but not pushing them other than to make sure they showed class and manners when dealing with fans and other members of the racing community.

On Friday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the Dillons and Childress got to celebrate Ty's first major NASCAR triumph. The Camping World Truck Series rookie beat veteran Kyle Busch to win the Grit Chips 200 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Childress, along with Dillon's father, Mike, joined the race winner in his post-race press conference.

Dillon and Childress were drivers themselves in the beginning before moving to behind-the-scenes roles in the sport. Neither ever won a major race, something that Ty and his brother Austin now have done. Austin Dillon, now a rookie in the Nationwide Series, has one Nationwide win, and four in the truck series.

Dillon said seeing his youngest son score his breakthrough victory was a special moment for him.

"You want to get them out there and give them everything it takes to do it," Dillon said. "And then when they accomplish it, it's hard to put into words."

"It's like a kid getting up there to hit a ball on their first time at bat, you just want them to make contact ... and he hit it out of the park."

Childress, who fields the vehicles driven by his grandsons as well as the Sprint Cup cars driven by Kevin Harvick, Jeff Burton and Paul Menard, said what his grandsons have become outside their cars means as much or more to him as the wins on the track.

"What makes me proud of both of them is they're both really good young men," he said. "They came up in the sport when they were little kids running around the track. You didn't think they were paying much attention, just playing and having fun like kids. But they were really watching – watching what Dale Earnhardt did and how he carried himself and how he had the respect of the sport."

"That's the way they are and to the fans, and I'm really proud of what they've accomplished."

Dillon said he liked they way his son went about getting his truck tuned for the winning run. He consulted with fellow driver Max Papis and then talked to Harvick, who has won races in all three major NASCAR divisions. Ty Dillon said Harvick's advice was spot on.

Mike Dillon was simply pleased that his son took that approach to setting up his truck.

"I'm more proud of that than him winning the race," Mike Dillon said.



Ty Dillon celebrates winning Friday's Camping World Truck Series Grit Chips 200 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. (NASCAR photo)

Chase field all but set after Atlanta race

With one race left to run in the 26-race regular season, the field is already mostly set for the 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup.

The finish of the AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway locked in the top 10 drivers in the standings, leaving only the two wild card slots to be decided Saturday night at Richmond International Raceway. Only two drivers, Atlanta runner-up Jeff Gordon, and Kyle Busch, have realistic chances to take the one spot that is truly up for grabs. Kasey Kahne holds one of the two wild card slots with his two race victories and 11th-place position in the standings.

Atlanta winner Denny Hamlin, who capitalized on the quick work of his pit crew on a late-race pit stop to move from third place to first for the final restart, now has four wins on the season and will at least be tied for the lead when the points are reset to start the 10-race championship-deciding Chase.

He also appears to be on a roll as the Chase begins. His win in the AdvoCare 500 was his second straight on the Cup circuit, and he's headed to his home track, Richmond International Raceway, where he's one of the dominant drivers.

"That's my track," he said. "It's my best track, arguably, and I just think we have a lot of momentum now, and for what it's worth, I will try to take advantage of it."

At Atlanta he led seven times for a race-high 105 laps, but he appeared to be destined to lose to Martin Truex Jr., who had a big lead as the laps wound down. But



Denny Hamlin after winning Sunday's AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. (NASCAR photo)

Jamie McMurray's crash on lap 321 and the ensuing caution flag sent the leaders to pit road, where Hamlin's crew essentially won the race for him.

Gordon, who passed Truex for second place and made a run at Hamlin, was second-guessing himself afterward for not being more aggressive with a race win and a Chase berth on the line.

He said he should have run into Hamlin and moved him out of the way.

"I guess I'm getting soft in my old age," said Gordon, who made his first Cup start at AMS 20

years ago this fall.

Two Chase contenders likely saw their hopes for a title run go up in smoke at Atlanta.

Carl Edwards blew an engine on Lap 264, bringing out a caution flag and derailing his fading Chase hopes. On the restart following Edwards' blown engine, Jimmie Johnson, Sam Hornish Jr. and Ryan Newman wrecked on the backstretch, effectively putting Newman out of the running.

Edwards, who tied eventual champion Tony Stewart in points last year but lost the title on the tie breaker of race wins, is experiencing the kind of slump that has become the norm for the driver who finishes second the year before.

"Somebody is trying to teach me something here," Edwards said. "I've been trying to live right and do the right things, so I hope there's a reason for all of this, but man, it's just so frustrating."

SPRINT CUP POINTS

- 1. Greg Biffle**
879; Leader
- 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.**
871; behind -8
- 3. Matt Kenseth**
858; behind -21
- 4. Jimmie Johnson**
848; behind -31
- 5. Martin Truex Jr.**
838; behind -41
- 6. Brad Keselowski**
831; behind -48
- 7. Denny Hamlin**
822; behind -57
- 8. Clint Bowyer**
811; behind -68
- 9. Kevin Harvick**
807; behind -72
- 10. Tony Stewart**
769; behind -110

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

32 Points separating the top 3 drivers in the Nationwide Series standings: Elliott Sadler leads; Ricky Stenhouse Jr. second (-12 points); Sam Hornish Jr. third (-32)

31 Points separating the top five drivers in the Camping World Truck Series standings: Timothy Peters leads; James Buescher (-6); Ty Dillon (-9); Parker Kligerman (-21); and Justin Lofton (-31)

1,188 Laps led by Denny Hamlin in the past 13 Sprint Cup races at Richmond International Speedway, tops among drivers

0 Laps led by Brad Keselowski in the past six Sprint Cup races at Richmond International Raceway